

programs. It opened the doors of opportunity to women throughout the United States and spurred women across the world to fight for similar laws in their home countries.

She was the first woman appointed to the Detroit Recorder's Court, the first woman sent to Congress from her district, the first woman seated on the House Ways and Means Committee in 1954 and the first woman chosen to serve as Michigan's Lieutenant Governor. As the first woman and the first African-American to ever represent the Dallas, TX area in Congress, I have learned a great deal from her empathetic approach to public policy and political leadership. She never forgot that the bills we considered and the policies we crafted affected real people with real families. She always considered how a bill might affect our community's most disadvantaged families.

Martha's greatest legislative victory came when she engineered the inclusion of a ban on sex discrimination in the landmark 1964 civil rights legislation, which paved the way for a number of laws and Supreme Court rulings on issues ranging from equal pay to freedom from sexual harassment.

She displayed considerable political savvy in 1970 when she employed a little-known parliamentary tactic to blast the ERA out of the House Judiciary Committee, where it had been stalled for 47 years.

As a legislator, I admire Martha Griffiths. She earned the respect of her colleagues for both her intelligence and independence; they have described her as "tough as alligator skin" with "a steel-trap mind."

Mr. Speaker, Representative Martha Griffiths has been a clear, strong and consistent voice for women and women's issues. I am proud to stand here in honor of Martha Griffiths and her legacy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDDIE VALENTINELLI

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to the life and passing of Eddie Valentinelli of Grand Junction, Colorado. Eddie's passion for life was reflected in the time and effort that he devoted to the Junior College World Series (JUCO). As his family and friends mourn his loss, I would like to commend Eddie for his enthusiasm for the game and pay tribute to the impact that he had on his community.

Eddie attended every JUCO World Series game from the time the series began in 1958. He arrived at the ballpark at 5 a.m. every Saturday to help the grounds crew, loving to socialize with the players and coaches throughout the day. Fans have noted that the series would not be the same without Eddie's presence in his usual seat. Eddie's dedication to JUCO has extended beyond his own lifetime, as he had made the JUCO World Series Organization a major benefactor in his will. While the financial benefit from his contribution was welcomed, the sentimental value of the gesture is what individuals associated with JUCO will always remember.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to Ed-

die's dedication and commitment to his fellow Coloradans. Individuals like Eddie provide the strength of spirit and character that make this nation great. While he will be dearly missed, Eddie's spirit will live on through the lives of those whom he has touched. I extend my deepest sympathies to Eddie's family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING MISS LUCILE BLUFORD UPON HER DEATH, PUBLISHER AND EDITOR OF THE CALL NEWSPAPER

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise today to honor Miss Lucile Bluford, editor and publisher of The Call newspaper in Kansas City, Missouri. Miss Bluford passed away Friday, June 13. She had been an employee of The Call for 71 years and editor/publisher since 1955. She would have been 92 years young this July 1.

Miss Bluford, as she was known by everyone, was a trail blazer and pioneer for civil rights and equality for African-Americans. She fought both personally and professionally to end segregation and advance opportunities for our community. Through her fight to access graduate journalism school for herself and other minorities and her leadership in the civil rights and journalism communities, Miss Bluford left an enduring mark in her advocacy for equality.

Miss Bluford graduated from the University of Kansas School of Journalism in 1932 and joined The Call shortly thereafter as a reporter. In 1938, she filed a mandamus suit against the University of Missouri Graduate School of Journalism for being denied admittance because of her color. Miss Bluford wrote and fought for racial and social justice ever since. She reported about the plight of those unfortunate enough to help themselves, the poor and disenfranchised. Miss Bluford had an effect on making our community and nation better aware of the inequalities existing.

Miss Bluford had the ear of those who were wealthy and those who were not, and conversed with the common citizen or those of stature. I met with Lucile many times and I always treasured her company and conversation. I invariably would leave with a much more valuable insight on the issues of the day as well as the rich history she lived—especially her struggles in the civil rights movement.

Miss Bluford's leadership and accomplishments have been recognized on numerous occasions, including receiving the Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism from the University of Missouri. Last fall she was honored by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce as "Kansas Citian of the Year for 2002." Awards she received throughout her career include the Distinguished Service Award from the national NAACP, an Honorary Doctorate degree from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Martin Luther King Award, University of Missouri Distinguished Service Medal of Honor, and the Rec-

ognition Award for Unsurpassed and Dedicated Service to the Community by the Northwest Missouri Division of the African Methodist and Episcopal Church.

One of the honors she cherished most was the University of Kansas establishment of the Lucile H. Bluford Scholarship Fund for students interested in studying journalism. This lasting legacy to Miss Bluford will provide future generations with the opportunity to fulfill their dream of journalism.

Miss Bluford has been recognized for her service to our community and nation. She had served as a juror Pulitzer Prize for Journalism, was a member of the National Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and had been selected to make a trip to Israel in 1972 with a group of American newspaper editors. Miss Bluford served on the Governor's Committee for "Jobs for Missourians," was a board member and Secretary of the Missouri Commission of Human Rights from 1957 to 1969, and served on the Governor's Task Force on the role of Private Higher Education in Missouri. She served on local boards of United Way, NAACP, Kansas City Council on Crime Prevention, Kansas City Cancer Society, Kansas City Area Hospital Association, Model Cities Day Care Corporation, Legal Aid and Defender Society, and the University of Missouri at Kansas City Cockefair Chair Board of Directors.

As publisher and editor of The Call newspaper, she elevated the awareness of the African-American community in relation to its role in the broader majority society. Miss Bluford was a dedicated journalist from her humble beginnings as a reporter to the position of publisher and editor—she never forgot her roots. I fondly remember how she would dutifully take notes on her reporter's pad with her ever present red pen. As a role model and a journalist, I remember Miss Bluford for her fairness and unassuming manner. She was never one to seek out the spotlight or glory. She spoke her mind to the powerful and stood by her beliefs without hesitation.

Miss Bluford has been an inspiration to me. Her dedication and commitment to public service served as an example to all of us who work to make our community better. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring her for her service to our community and the nation.

Miss Bluford can never be replaced, but her ideals and principals will remain as a fundamental foundation for our community. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family members, co-workers, and friends. All of our lives are richer for having known Miss Lucile H. Bluford.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONWIDE GUN BUYBACK ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am encouraged to introduce the Nationwide Gun Buyback Act of 2003, NGBA, by the actions of the District of Columbia residents on Father's Day last Sunday. Citizens who had lost relatives and representatives of 20 advocacy and victim-support groups gathered at Freedom